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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Nobuyuki HARADA et al.

: Group Art Unit: 1713

Serial No.: 10/689,075

: Examiner: B. Lipman

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: PRODUCTION PROCESSES FOR BASIC
WATER-ABSORBENT RESIN AND WATER-
ABSORBING AGENT, AND USE THEREOF

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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is in response to the Examiner's Statement on the Reasons for Allowance attached to the December 28, 2004 Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner's statements are believed to mischaracterize the invention and are not necessary to support the allowance of the claims. For example, the Examiner's statements incorrectly suggest that the invention requires "the combination of both acidic and basic water-absorbent resins wherein one is irregular in shape due to the shear stress during crosslinking". Only independent claim 21 recites that the basic resin is crosslinked while applying shear stress to obtain irregular shaped basic water-absorbent resin. Claim 21 does not recite that the acid resin is crosslinked while applying shear stress or irregular shaped.

Independent claims 31 and 34 also do not recite an irregular shaped acidic resin as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 31 and 34 recite the water-absorbent agent comprising an acidic water-absorbent resin and an irregular shaped basic water-absorbent resin. The

process of claims 31 and 34 recite crosslinking the basic resin while applying shear stress to obtain irregular shaped basic water-absorbent resin. Claims 31 and 34 do not recite that the acid resin is crosslinked simultaneously with the basic resin and do not recite that the acid resin is irregular shaped.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's Statements of Reasons for Allowance do not accurately reflect the invention as recited in each of the independent claims. The above comments are provided to clarify the invention as recited in the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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